

# This Week on the Peak

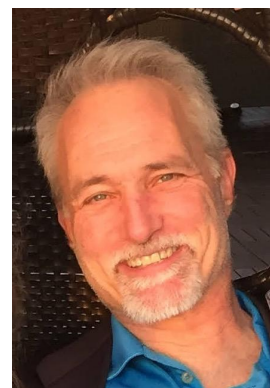


## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! September 27, 2023

Dear Sandra,

In a few weeks, I begin my sabbatical. I have things lined up that I'm looking forward to. Sort of.

If I sound apprehensive, let me explain. Two days after I start my sabbatical I will attend an 11-day silent meditation retreat. After that, I will spend 37 days traveling with people I've never met in places I've never been (Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan). My experience with both activities is that I will encounter a great deal that is exciting and unfamiliar.



These two activities have each taught me a great deal. Meditation requires incredible attentiveness - being completely in the present moment. Travel calls me to appreciate the past and think about where I'm going. Both are revealing. And demanding. They pull me out of my comfort zone. There's no autopilot to turn on and let my mind wander.

But heightened states of focus tend to teach me more about who I am. And how and why I do what I do. Like anyone, I like routines and being part of systems where I'm working with others to get something important done. I know the joy of starting something new. Learning, gaining experience, develop routines and rhythms. Finding a groove.

But, I have found myself in situations where habits lost their creativity and flexibility. Where intensity and expectations took a groove and left it feeling like a rut. As others have said, the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth and how long we plan to be there.

Here's where it's important to say that I am not leaving after my sabbatical. But it's also where it becomes important to say that I am committed to working with you in love, creativity, innovation, and joy. I think that requires that we all, occasionally, reinvent ourselves.

I promise I will come back different. But I will come back. And my hope is that I will have new ways of loving you and this work we do together so that joy, excitement, and gratitude are at the heart of everything that happens here.

Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)

## This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.



### The California Reparations Report

In 2020, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California State Senate and Assembly helped create a Task Force to study the issue of Reparations. It's premise has been to acknowledge and address the systemic inequities experienced by African Americans exacted by 160 years of slavery on today's political, legal, financial, cultural, environmental, social standing and rights. We are blessed to welcome Donald Tamaki, one of the 9 members of the task force to explain the work of the task force.

Donald Tamaki will lead the service assisted by Rev. Barbara Meyers. Steve Wallcave will be Worship Host and Peak Performers will provide our music.

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### Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely, you can donate and/or fulfill your pledge in the 3 ways shown below:

Mail check to

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
P.O. Box 545  
Fremont, CA 94537-0545  
(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

Drop envelope with a check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:  
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
We will be collecting this once per week.

Pay on line at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card.  
Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.

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### Reminder of Congregational vote on Sunday

This is a reminder that there will be a vote after the service on Sunday about supporting the California Reparations task force work. If you need to have an absentee ballot, please request one from Michelle Wallace at [secretary@mpuuc.org](mailto:secretary@mpuuc.org).

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### Share the Plate for September: Vote Forward

We are still collecting for our Civic Engagement Committee for funding to write letters to for Vote

Forward, a non profit that has been proven successful in increasing specified voter turn out in swing states.

Write a check to MPUUC with "Vote" in the memo line and mail to:  
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
P.O. Box 545, Fremont, CA 94537-0545  
(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

Drop an envelope with a check (with "Vote" on the memo line) or cash (with a note stating "Vote") in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For Vote" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%



## CIRCLE OF LIFE

Each week, we post the previous Sunday's Joys and Concerns that we were given permission to share. We encourage you to make room in your heart for the hopes and fears of your fellow members. Reach out to celebrate and console those you care about. Here are the [Joys and Concerns](#) for the past 4 weeks. If you would like your joy or concern to appear in the Wheel of

Life, contact the Encouragement Committee at [ecteam@mpuuc.org](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org)

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## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. We welcome all voices who wish to participate in discussion on interesting topics. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

**Please note the link has changed as we are using a different Zoom account.**

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## REV. GREG'S SABBATICAL

In October, Rev. Greg will begin a 3 month sabbatical. Extensive planning has been done to make sure this time is collectively successful and rewarding. If you're just hearing about this, you'll want to read the [Sabbatical Brochure](#) that explains who will be MPUUC's Sabbatical Minister and what arrangements have been put in place and what you need to understand for this to be successful.

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## Status of the Revision Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

For information from the Sept 17 workshop regarding the status of the rewrite of Article II of the UUA Bylaws, please go [here](#).

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## Mission Peak Leadership Assessment

Leadership is essential for Mission Peak to be successful. And feedback is essential for leadership to learn. The Committee on Ministry has a short survey that will help inform Rev. Greg and MPUUC leaders. Please take the [MPUUC Leadership Survey](#). In just 10-15 minutes, your insight can help leaders be even more successful. Although the survey requires we put our name, all feedback shared in Congregational Conversations will be without attribution.

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## Coyote Hills Regional Park

8000 Patterson Ranch Road, Fremont, CA 94555

# Gathering of Ohlone Peoples

Sunday, October 1, 2023 **Free** Unlimited openings  
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m

**IMPORTANT: There is a special congregational meeting from 11:30–12:30 this Sunday. Please attend so we have a quorum.**

### Activity location

Coyote Hills (Fremont): Visitors Center

## Description

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK – Connect and gain a deeper understanding of the local Indigenous Peoples past, present, and future. Join Ohlone Peoples from diverse tribal communities as they share their living history through music, song, dance, and stories. Together, we'll learn, celebrate, and honor the first stewards of this land. Parent participation required. Parking fees apply where charged. All ages. Wheelchair accessible. This is a drop-in program; no registration is required. For information, call (510) 544-3220.

## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

### Fall Fellowship opportunities- mark your calendars!

Let's celebrate this fall with some great reasons for getting together:

**Saturday September 30th**, 5:30-7:30pm potluck, game night and final stepping stone making event.

**Saturday October 21st**, 5:30-7:30pm potluck, game night and TBD art-making event

**Saturday Nov 11th**, 5:3--7:30pm potluck, game night and Diwali celebration

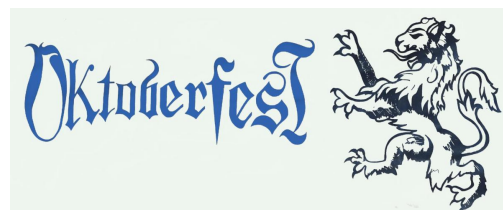
**RSVP** requested (but not required) and coming closer to the date

## OKTOBERFEST is happening again!

Saturday, October 7, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

At Don Ramie's house:  
35982 Cabral Dr., Fremont, CA 94536

(510) 791-6842



Everyone from Mission Peak UU is invited, as well as friends and family!

German beer and German snacks will be provided. You can also bring some other drink and a munch of your own if you like. We had a great time last year, and it's a great way to get to know each other better. Lots of street parking.

## JUSTICE CORNER

We're grateful for the courageous advocacy of Rev. Christina Branum-Martin, Rev. Misha Sanders, and all the Unitarian Universalists who are faithfully showing up to put Cop City on the ballot and to demand that the people of Atlanta decide. This morning UUs helped to deliver the over 116,000 petition signatures collected by the Cop City Vote Coalition in support of letting Atlantans decide if they want Cop City.



The City Clerk claims that they are not “legally obligated to verify signatures” because of the 11th circuit court stay ruling. We join with the Cop City Vote Coalition in calling on the City of Atlanta to honor the signatures and add the Cop City Referendum to the ballot TODAY.

Visit <https://bit.ly/StopCopCityBallotNow> to call the Atlanta City Council and view our sample script to tell City Council to add the referendum to the ballot today. See image descriptions in the comments.

## Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

In 2009, I moved back to my hometown of 2,500 people in rural South Dakota to be a teacher. That same year, my little sister, who is Native, started kindergarten and was called racist names on the playground by her classmates.

While my sister faced unchecked racist bullies, I was buying classroom supplies and being chastised for talking about race in my middle school classroom. Both of us were unsupported by our school system. Our 100% white school board had been organized into the divide-and-conquer worldview of the far right, believing that honest conversations about race were the problems in our schools, and not the lack of funding we received.

This year, SURJ is launching our first ever school board campaign, “All In for All Students.” We’ve recruited a cohort of 17 teams across the country that are working at the school board level in their local communities, some supporting candidates running for election and others working on issues like fighting for trans kids’ rights.



[Our first phone bank is this Wednesday at 6 pm ET where we'll be calling other SURJ members to turn them out for this work.](#)

## 8th Principle Learning



Georgetown University and Jesuits donate \$27 million to foundation for descendants of enslaved people

By [Nicole Chavez](#), CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/14/us/georgetown-university-jesuits-enslaved-people-gift-reaj/index.html?fbclid=IwAR1u4RyH5N-nl4Mbd4RNBMB6DPtnASLUykkBmTZ00SRSpq5YgwAQSEr-Zc>

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## Denominational Affairs

### Save the Dates: Pacific Western Regional Assembly

**April 19-20, 2024**

**Online and in-person**

Look for details about registration, location and presenters in upcoming editions of the PWR Newsletter.

**Online and in-person**

Look for details about registration, location and presenters in upcoming editions of the PWR Newsletter.

Click [here](#) for more information from Pacific Western Region Newsletter.

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## Mission Peak Money Matters: Contact Info



Responsibilities for Mission Peak UU's financial process are shared between our Congregational Administrator, Sandra Lange ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)) and our treasurer, Jay Steele. ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)).

- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking, reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, stock donations, and the like. If you are submitting a reimbursement request, please send to both [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org).
- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)), which is being monitored by Jay Steele and also to Sandra ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)). This will ensure that any financial questions are answered promptly.
- **Important note** - if you are making a stock donation/pledge, please notify Sandra at

## Board Briefs

Board briefs from September 2023 MPUUC Board meeting.

The board met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

- Approved an updated Board Covenant.
- Discussed upcoming COM survey that is to compare with the last (2021) survey.
- Discussed October 1 Reparations Service. A notice will go in Week on the Peak September 13 for the Oct. 1 congregational meeting and vote regarding reparations.
- Discussed September 17 workshop by the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) to education the congregation about the UUA's work on the UUA Bylaws Article 2.
- Discussed stewardship projects. The MPUUC Auction will be on November 18 at 7 pm via Zoom and will include elements of a Boutique, rather than having a separate Boutique in October.
- Discussed the 2024-25 Canvass, the need to recruit a coordinator, and timeline.
- Approved the Outreach Committee Charter update (formerly Publicity Committee).
- Discussed the UUA's DRUUMM survey, which will be sent out to MPUUC members on behalf of DRUUMM.
- Discussed clarification of the facility lease with the Methodists (landlords).

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm.

For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at [mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only](http://mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only)

For more details about meetings or questions email [president@mpuuc.org](mailto:president@mpuuc.org)

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## Share the Plate Suggestions

8 times per year (once a month, September – May) MPUUC organizes a special collection for a worthy agency that promote our values in the larger world. We try to select some local agencies, some denominational agencies and, occasionally, some global agencies. You can help by suggesting what agencies would be good candidates for this special fund, reaching out to connect with a representative to address the congregation and share it's mission. If you know an agency that would be a good justice partner with MPUUC, [sign up here](#).

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## Making announcements

If you've ever had an announcement you wanted to share about an upcoming MPUUC event or meeting but didn't know how, you're in luck. This [Announcement Sheet](#) will go directly to Sandra, our Administrator (to put in the OOS); or to a Board Member (to announce at a Sunday service. Deadline for posting Sunday announcements is Thursday at 5pm.

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**ACT NOW!**

## Call your Elected Officials!

Calls can make a difference! Contact your representatives to alert them to your views!

Assembly Member Alex Lee 408-262-2501  
Representative Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](http://house.gov)  
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631  
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553  
Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841



Mission Peak UU | 2950 Washington Blvd Fremont CA | 510.252.1477 [missionpeakuu.org](http://missionpeakuu.org)



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